

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 3328

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CG, PFOR, KN, KS

SUBJECT: LHO-MOBUTU CONVERSATION

REF: KINSHASA 3245, 3202 AND SEOUL 2465

SUMMARY: ON APRIL 18 ROK VICE FONMIN LHO MET FOR OVER TWO HOURS WITH MOBUTU WHO AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO VISIT ROK BUT INSISTED ON NEED FOR SUBSTATIAL ROK AID. LHO APPEARS TO HAVE OPPOSED NORTH KOREAN ADMISSION TO NAC WHILE LETTING MOBUTU INFER DUAL MEMBERSHIP, E.E., EVEN-HANDED TREATMENT AS AT GA, WOULD BE OK. MOBUTU EXPLAINED GOZ SUPPORT FOR NORTH KOREAN ADMISSION TO NAC BY CITING PROMPT AID HE HAS RECEIVED FROM PYONGYANG. LHO SEEMS HOPEFUL OF GOZ NEUTRALITY ON KOREAN ITEM IN 30TH UNGA. END SUMMARY.

1. ROK VICE FOREIGN MINISTER LHO GAVE ME LATE APRIL 19 FAIRLY FULL DEBRIEFING ON HIS CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT MOBUTU. HE SPENT OVER TWO HOURS, INCLUDING TIME FOR INTERPRETATION, WITH PRESIDENT AT MBANDAKA. MOBUTU BEGAN BY PUTTING LHO ON DEFENSIVE BY DEMANDING EXPANATION AS TO WHY PRESIDENT PARK COULD NOT RECEIVE HIM LAST YEAR. LHO
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EXPOAINED KOREA WANTED TO DO IT RIGHT AND THERE HAD NOT BEEN

ENOUGH TIME. ALSO CHRISTMAS EVE IN CHRISTIAN COUNTRY WAS NOT APPROPRIATE MOMENT. LHO PUSHED FOR VISIT THIS YEAR, PROPOSING MAY VISIT. MOBUTU SAID YES IN PRINCIPLE BUT ADDED DATES WOULD BE ESTABLISHED LATER THROUGH FOREIGN MINISTER.

2. MOBUTU EXPLAINED HIS RELATIONS WITH PYONGYANG AND PEKING AS BEING COMPATIBLE WITH HIS FOREIGN POLICY OF POSITIVE NEUTRALITY. THEN HE DREW INVIDIOUS COMPARISON WITH SOUTH KOREAN PERFORMANCE, SAYING HE HAD HAD RELATIONS WITH SEOUL FOR TWELVE YEARS AND SOUTH KOREA HAD DONE VIRTUALLY NOTHING FOR HIM. WHAT HE LIKED ABOUT PYONGYANG AND PEKING WAS THAT WHEN HE MADE REQUEST FOR HELP, THEY AGREED AND IMPLEMENTED PROMPTLY. HE WANTED TO KNOW WHAT SOUTH KOREA COULD DO FOR HIM. LHO TALKED OF POSSIBILITY OF PROVIDING AND STAFFING SMALL CLINIC HOSPITAL; MOBUTU WAS INTERESTED.

3. LHO TOLD MOBUTU HOW APPRECIATIVE SEOUL HAD BEEN OF GOZ NEUTRALITY DURING 29TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND EXPRESSED HOPE FOR SIMILAR TREATMENT AT 30TH. HE ALSO RAISED QUESTION OF NORTH KOREAN MEMBERSHIP IN NON-ALIGNED GROUP. MOBUTU EXPLAINED THAT AFTER NORTH KOREAN ASSISTANCE TO HIM HE COULD HARDLY REFUSE TO BACK THEM WHEN THEY ASKED FOR HIS HELP IN SECURING NAC MEMBERSHIP. SOUTH KOREA HAD NOT BEFORE RAISED MATTER ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. FOREIGN MINISTER BULA SAID MATTER HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AT DAKAR RAW MATERIAL MEETING AND NO COUNTRY PRESENT HAD MADE SOUTH KOREAN CASE.

4. LHO TOLD PRESIDENT NORTH KOREA HAD TREATIES WITH SOVIETS AND CHINESE BUT MOBUTU APPARENTLY DISMISSED THIS AS ESSENTIALLY IRRELEVANT. NEVERTHELESS, LHO HOPED I COULD GET TEXTS TO PRESIDENT AND TRY TO UNDERSCORE POINT THAT THEY ARE TREATIES OF ALLIANCE AND NOT OF FRIENDSHIP. (I HAVE ASKED DEPT FOR ITS VIEWS CONCERNING THIS - KINSHASA 3202.)

5. LHO WAS STUNNED BY FACT THAT MOBUTU DID NOT MENTION EITHER US OR USSR. IN ADDITION TO MENTION ASIAN COUNTRIES, MOBUTU TALKED OF ZAIRE'S MINERAL, PETROLEUM

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AND TIMBER RESOURCES - MENTIONING CANADIAN HELP ON FORESTRY AND ITALIAN INTEREST IN IRON DEPOSITS. HE SUGGESTED KOREAN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT.

6. LHO GOT MESSAGE TO MOBUTU THAT HE SHOULD NOT MAKE MISTAKE AND MISJUDGE FUTURE IMPORTANCE OF SOUTH KOREA. HE SAID HE EXPLAINED KOREA WAS NOT CAMBODIA OR VIETNAM BUT A FUTURE WEST GERMANY OR JAPAN. HE HELD MOBUTU'S

ATTENTION WITH SOME SORT OF COLOR ILLUSTRATED PAMPHLET
ON SOUTH KOREAN PROGRESS.

7. LHO ASSESSED TALK AS POSITIVE AND WAS PLEASED THAT
MOBUTU MADE C-130 AVAILABLE TO TAKE HIM TO SEE PRESIDENT'S
BIRTHPLACE WHICH LHO SAYS IS NOT MUCH OF A SHRINE. ON
OTHER HAND, BULA AFTERWARDS CLEARLY IMPLIED THAT SOUTH
KOREAN HELP WOULD HAVE TO BE SUBSTANTIAL AND CERTAIN
BEFORE MOBUTU WOULD VISIT SEOUL. LHO THINKS, I WOULD
JUDGE, THERE IS CHANCE TO HOLD ZAIRE NEUTRAL FOR 30TH
ASSEMBLY BUT THAT NON-ALIGNED COUNTRY ISSUE IS MORE
DIFFICULT. HE ASKED WHAT I THOUGHT ABOUT MAKING AN
EFFORT AND I SAID IT WAS FOR GOVERNMENT OF KOREA TO
ASSESS RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES, THAT MOBUTU AND COMPANY
WOULD PLAY EVERYONE FOR WHAT THEY COULD GET AND IN
LIGHT OF CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM, WOULD NOT HESITATE TO
BREAK THEIR WORD. THEY WERE MOVING STEADILY TOWARD
GREATER SUPPORT OF SUCH PEOPLE AS PYONGYANG AND IS SUSPECTED
THEY MIGHT BE VOTING TO SEAT NORTH KOREA IN UN
SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. I DID THINK, HOWEVER, THAT ZAIRE
IS AND WILL BE IMPORTANT AFRICAN COUNTRY AND THAT IF
KOREA WANTS TO MAKE EFFORT TO STEM TIDE, THERE MUCH
TO BE SAID FOR TRYING HERE. IN THAT CASE I WOULD DOUBLE
THE BETS, A HOSPITAL PLUS SOMETHING ELSE WHICH MOBUTU
AND BULA ARE NOT YET COUNTING ON. HE ASKED WHAT THAT
MIGHT BE, AND I SAID THERE WAS OVERWHELMING NEED FOR
FERTILIZER, FERTILIZER PLANTS, AND FERTILIZER TECHNICIANS.
LHO SAID HE WOULD THINK IT OVER.

8. LHO WILL GO FROM HERE TO IVORY COAST, UPPER VOLTA
AND SENEGAL, THEN TO U.S. WHERE HE EXPECTS TO SEE HABIB
AND BUFFUM.

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